

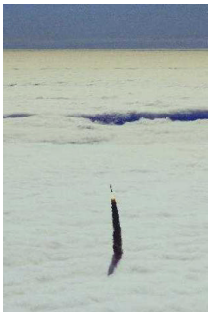
30TH SPACE WING

Vandenberg Air Force Base

by Lt Colonel Bruce Kalish



Vandenberg's Space Launch Complex 6 at ocean's edge.



A delta rocket punches through heavy cloud cover on its way to orbit.



A Titan 4 rocket launches from the pad.

The 30th Comptroller Squadron, Vandenberg AFB CA, supports an exciting and evolving space launch mission. The base is located along the Central Coast region of California about one hour north of Santa Barbara. Vandenberg is the third largest Air Force base (behind Eglin AFB FL and Edwards AFB CA) with 98,400 acres of land. The scenic California Highway 1 travels through the base property. The 30th Space Wing hosts two major tenants—Headquarters 14th Air Force and Air Education and Training Command's 381st Training Group, which performs space and missile training.

Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) test launches are a routine occurrence at Vandenberg. This includes the Peacekeeper, Minuteman II, and Minuteman III missile systems. When these missiles are test launched from Vandenberg, they are targeted for the Kwajalein Missile Range in the western chain of the Marshall Islands. The ICBMs travel west over the Pacific Ocean about 4,200 miles in 30 minutes to their target. Vandenberg also supports launches for satellites (mostly weather, remote sensing, navigation, communications, and reconnaissance) that must go into polar orbit. The launch vehicles used for satellite launches are Delta II, Atlas II, Titan II, Pegasus, Titan IV, and others. These Western Launch Range activities are conducted for the Air Force, Department of Defense, NASA, Navy, and various commercial industry contractors.

The 30th CPTS provides financial support to the space and missile launch operations of the Western Launch Range which is a vast tracking, telemetry, and command complex. The boundary begins along Vandenberg's California coastline and extends westward across the Pacific Ocean. The Vandenberg workforce is comprised of approximately 3,100 active duty military, 1,000 civil service employees, 5,550 contractors, and an additional 600 personnel from other agencies.

The 30th CPTS currently has 36 military, 20 civilians, and seven contractors. The 30th CPTS budget shop faces some unique challenges relating to the Wing's spacelift programs. The launch business is costly and 30th CPTS has a large reimbursable program to recoup costs associated with the Wing launch mission. The squadron uses the Job Order Cost Accounting System to support Western Launch Range operations. A program called the Full Cost initiative is being implemented to capture 100 percent of all direct, indirect, and overhead costs for launches. Current financial information systems are being improved and upgraded to meet the growing demand of the commercial launch industry. For example, a standard Job Order Number structure has been developed, a commercial launch customer handbook was compiled, a monthly newsletter is published, and surveys are sent to launch customers to ensure we are meeting the demands of this very complex market.

To support this unique and complex reimbursement operation, we maintain an information database for external and internal customers. This financial tool provides real-time data for trend analysis, cost estimates, and working potential shortfalls prior to a mission impact. The system interfaces with all other financial systems to bring cost data into one area for easy access and has resulted in saving many labor resource hours. It also has helped Vandenberg's customers by taking much of the mystery out of launch and contract financial data.

In the appropriated funds area, the 30th CPTS budget shop has developed and implemented a Funds Control Database system to control all incoming HQ AFSPC Operation and Maintenance, Military Family Housing, and other appropriated funding. The database records the distribution, tracks reprogramming, and can generate reports in different formats and levels of details. This is an excellent financial management control tool used for initial distribution, developing the Financial Plan and day-to-day execution.

Finally, California, and especially Santa Barbara County where Vandenberg is located, is very environmentally-conscious. This creates another unique area of interest for the 30th CPTS—the financial support provided for the 30th Space Wing's conservation, pollution prevention, environmental compliance, and installation restoration programs valued at over \$16 million—one of the largest programs in the Air Force. The 30th CPTS financial analysts are key players in the complex execution process required to achieve the balance for environmental compliance, cultural resource protection, and spaceport requirements. We're proud of our base, and as good neighbors, we do what it takes to prevent environmental violations.

